



February 12, 2021

Committee Chair Rep. Freiberg and
Committee Members
Preventive Health Policy Division
Minnesota House of Representatives

Chair Freiberg and Members of the Committee:

The Association for Nonsmokers-MN (ANSR) writes in support of HF904, a bill ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Minnesota. HF904 will help protect youth from the addiction and health harms caused by tobacco use.

ANSR is the oldest organization in Minnesota solely dedicated to preventing the harms caused by tobacco. We have supported policies at the state and local level since 1975, beginning with the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act and through last year's adoption of the Tobacco 21 law.

ANSR collaborated with community partners to promote flavored tobacco restrictions in Metro communities large and small, from Minneapolis and Saint Paul, to Edina, to Fridley to Lauderdale. Other partners have worked with communities throughout the state to pass flavored tobacco ordinances. While each of those policies helps protect the youth in their community, a state-wide policy that protects all Minnesota youth and prevents vendors in one city from promoting their products to youth from nearby cities is vastly superior.

The history of tobacco policy in Minnesota is that innovative policies begin at the local level. At some point so many local ordinances are adopted that it just makes sense to cover the entire state. This was true with clean indoor air, free sampling of tobacco products, and Tobacco 21.

We believe we are at that critical point with flavored tobacco policy. Twenty-one cities and counties have adopted flavored tobacco restrictions. Now is the time to protect all Minnesotans, not just those who live in the twenty-one communities.

Jeanne Weigum
President